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TWO NEW SPECIES OF THE GENUS *METACHROMA*
CHEVROLAT (COLEOPTERA: CHRYSOMELIDAE)

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ABSTRACT—*Metachroma rhizophorae* from the Panama Canal Zone and British Honduras and *M. angusticolle* from Illinois, new species, are described.

Since my revision of the genus *Metachroma* was published in December 1970, 2 new species of that genus have come to light; 1 from Chicago, Illinois and the other collected by Dr. Daniel Simberloff of Florida State University on mangrove (*Rhizophora mangle* L.) in the Panama Canal.

Metachroma rhizophorae Blake, new species
fig. 1

From 4 to 5 mm in length, elongate oblong oval, shining yellowish or reddish brown with dark occipital spot, 4 more or less elongate dark spots across pronotum, and irregular dark markings from humerus down along side of elytra, antennae with apical joints 7-11 mostly dark, pronotum finely punctate, elytra more coarsely and striately punctate.

Head with interocular space less than half width of head, eyes large, no sulcus separating front from clypeus, front indistinctly punctate, occiput more distinctly punctate, yellow brown with a dark occipital spot, in females covering more of back of head and down front and about eyes, clypeus shallowly emarginate over labrum, jaws large and shining piceous. Antennae with 5 apical joints wider and darker than basal joints and extending below humeri. Prothorax about a third wider than long, convex, with arcuate sides, a small tooth at each corner and narrow explanate margin, surface shining, finely and not densely punctate, varying from pale to deep yellowish brown with 4 more or less elongate piceous spots across, the two inner ones being larger and longer, margins in female dark.

1. *Metachroma rhizophorae* n.sp.2. *Metachroma angusticolle* n.sp.

Scutellum varying in color from yellow brown to piceous. Elytra not much wider than pronotum and not quite 3 times as long, with parallel sides and striate punctures not reaching apex, larger along sides; yellowish brown varying from pale to darker, with irregular dark markings from humerus down along side to apical curve, in some specimens broken and in others extending half across elytra, these markings paler in male. Body beneath yellow brown with breast deeper reddish brown, legs pale yellow brown, hind femora toothed, and with emargination in both middle and hind tibiae. Length 3–4 mm; width 2–2.2 mm.

Type: male and 10 paratypes, USNM Type No. 71532.

Type locality: Diablo, Bt. (boat) ramp. Panama Canal, 21 January 1970, on common mangrove, *Rhizophora mangle* L., Daniel Simberloff.

Other locality: One male collected at Landifar, Berlize City, British Honduras, February 21, 1970 by D. Simberloff.

In this species, as in *M. angustulum* Crotch and *M. interruptum* (Say), the male and female show dimorphism in coloring. In this case the male is paler than the female. This color dimorphism may be fairly common in the genus but the scarcity of specimens in a given species prevents me from drawing conclusions. In the female of this species the elytral punctures are ringed with dark, giving them the appearance of being much coarser than in the male. As far as is known the larva of these Eumolpid beetles lives in the ground, and one wonders how this one survives in a mangrove swamp.

Metachroma angusticollis Blake, new species
fig. 2

From 6 to 6.5 mm in length, elongate oblong, shining yellow brown above, last 6 or 7 antennal joints dark, body beneath black with mid metasternum, breast and abdomen black; head and prothorax finely and not densely punctate, elytra with striate punctures fine and rather deeply impressed in basal half, producing a faint costate appearance of intervals, somewhat irregularly punctate on sides and at apex.

Head with interocular space half width of head, eyes large, occiput and front finely and not very densely punctate, median linear depression on front, clypeus with denser and coarser punctures, no groove between clypeus and front, anterior margin of clypeus over labrum slightly curved. Antennae extending well below humerus, basal 4 joints pale yellow brown, remainder wider and black. Prothorax moderately convex, not twice as wide as long, with slightly curved sides and very narrow explanate margin on sides and tiny tooth at each corner; pale yellow brown with reddish-brown margins, surface shiny, finely but not very densely punctate. Scutellum varying from yellow to reddish brown. Elytra more than 3 times as long as prothorax and considerably wider, with fine, close-set, striate punctures rather deeply impressed in basal half producing a slight costate effect of intervals, at apex punctures more shallowly set, on sides and at apex confused. Body beneath with middle of metasternum, breast and abdomen black. Middle and hind tibiae emarginate near apex. Length 6-6.5 mm; width 3-3.3 mm.

Type: female, USNM Type No. 72241 and 5 paratypes, 3 of which are in the Museum of Comparative Zoology, Harvard University.

Type locality: Chicago, Illinois, June 29, 1911, collected by E. Liljeblad, from the George Greene collection.

Probably because of its slightly costate appearing elytra, due to the deeply impressed striate punctures, the specimens were put with the yellow brown costate species of *Colaspis* both in the collection at the MCZ and in the USNM collection. In reality this species is very close to *M. longipenne* Blake described from southern Arizona. It is slightly larger and wider, being from 6 to 6.5 mm long in contrast to *M. longipenne* which is from 5.4 to 6 mm long, and correspondingly wider, being from 3 to 3.3 mm wide in contrast to *longipenne*'s 2.4 to 2.7 mm. Moreover the Chicago species is pale yellow brown above and black beneath, whereas *longipenne* has a deep reddish-brown head and prothorax, and is pale yellow brown beneath. It also has entirely pale antennae, whereas the Chicago species has the basal joints only pale, the remainder black. It is strange that no other collection of this beetle has been seen by the writer from such a well known place as Chicago.